Unreserved coaches occupied by Defence Personnel

1722. SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether two or three coaches are unreserved for general passengers in express or super fast trains;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that out of them one or two coaches are occupied forcibly by the defence personnel , without any reservation authority under the pretext 'Reserved for Military'; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take in the matter so as to avoid nuisance and beating by the unscrupulous defence personnel with the general passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) A minimum of two general class coaches besides two luggage-cum-general class coaches are available in all Mail/Express trains except Rajdhani/Shatabdi Expresses;

(b) No, Sir.

(c) To prevent any harassment to the unreserved passengers from any unscrupulous elements, the following steps are taken:

(1) The queues to board the unreserved compartments are regulated by the Commercial and Railway Protection Force (RPF) staff with the assistance of the Government Railway Police (GRP) where necessary.

(2) The unreserved compartments are locked in the yard and brought to the platforms. The doors are opened on the platforms and the unreserved passengers, who are already waiting in queue, are regulated into the unreserved coaches.

(3) These measures are monitored by the Railway Officers who are nominated during holiday seasons and by the supervisory staff and officers round the year.

(4) For any misdemeanor noticed, the RPF and GRP come to the assistance of the affected passengers. Cases are registered for offences committed and legal action taken.

(5) Whenever any defence personnel are concerned, the matter is also brought to the notice of the concerned Defence officers by the Government Railway Police while registering the cases.